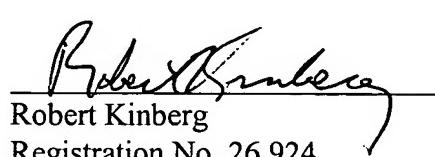


**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims elected in the parent application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/671,585. Claims 7-19 are pending. An Action on the merits is requested at the earliest opportunity

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/01/03

  
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